



ALASKA



UNIFIED STATE PLAN 2004



**As revised by the
Alaska State Community Service Commission
November 2003**

Vision Statement



We, the Alaska State Community Service Commission, in consultation with other Corporation for National and Community Service sponsored programs and state and local agencies, are committed to working together to foster and promote the ethic of service and volunteerism in Alaska. As partners, we will collaborate in the development of public and private partnerships: promoting volunteer opportunities through education, intergenerational service activities, environmental protection, homeland security, faith-based community initiatives and addressing other community needs. We will strive to: offer guidance and service opportunities to young people, adults and seniors; and to help strengthen local communities.

Alaska State Community Service Commission

In 2001 the Corporation for National Service was renamed the Corporation for National and Community Service. The Corporation for National and Community Service was created by the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993, engages Americans of all ages and backgrounds in service to their communities and the nation. Through its three main programs – AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America, and the National Senior Service Corps – the Corporation provides a broad range of opportunities for Americans to serve. The Corporation for National Service is a public-private partnership, combining the best aspects of local control with national support. State Commissions are the required conduit for receipt of funding through the Corporation they provide the local control that tailors National Service to the needs of the needs of the state.

The Alaska State Community Service Commission (ASCSC) was created by Governor Walter J. Hickel to establish the state's eligibility to receive AmeriCorps funding. The State Commission is comprised of 16 members appointed by the Governor. The Director of the State CNCS office is an ex-officio member of the Commission. The Executive Director is chosen by the Governor and hired by the Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development. Other Commission staff are selected and hired by the Executive Director in consultation with the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development as his/her designee. The composition of a Commission is legally constrained to ensure non-partisanship and political neutrality. The National and Community Service Trust Act and administrative regulations issued in conjunction with it, specify requirements for balance in the Commission.

The Commission functions much like a board of directors of a non-profit organization. Within the parameters mandated by law, the Commission establishes the various goals and objectives for the mission of the organization. They also determine many of the policies and procedures that govern the way the Commission operates. The Commission provides guidance and oversight to the Executive Director and staff, who have day-to-day responsibility to implement those policies. Similar to non-profit boards, the Commission has developed a committee structure to address their various responsibilities and oversee the work of the Commission.

Based on population and funding availability, the Commission recommends formula and competitive applications to the Corporation for National and Community Service. Applications are selected based on their ability to address unmet community needs in education, public safety, disability inclusion, homeland security, faith-based and community initiative, environment or other human needs. In the last eight years, the Commission has served over 100 Alaskan communities

The Department of Economic and Community Development houses the Commission and serves as its fiscal agent.

Purpose



The purpose of this plan is to:

- Define the context in which the Alaska State Community Service Commission can grow and promote volunteer service in Alaska;
- Coordinate and collaborate endeavors through which partners build their capacities to advance the goals of the plan;
- Outline processes whereby the Alaska State Community Service Commission will reach out to other organizations and federal, state and local entities to advance national and community service; and,
- Create innovative solutions to adapt national service initiatives to Alaska, its peoples and cultures.

History



- The Unified State Plan (USP) of 1998 was a combined effort on the part of the Corporation for National Service funded programs and other various social service, volunteer, and community service organizations.
- The 2000 update of the USP built upon that work, but more fully involved the Commission members in obtaining a wide range of input. All of the Commissioners contributed to the development of the plan. The diversity of the Commission membership and follow-up interviews allowed for maximum input in the revised plan.
- The 2001 revision was an annual update. Staff noted progress on goal areas, changes in strategies were recommended, and factual information was updated. The Commission approved the changes at a regularly scheduled meeting on May 21st, 2001.
- This 2002 USP is a more comprehensive re-write following the election of a new Commission Chairperson. This version also directly follows the completion of the Commission Standards Review and I.G. Audit.
- The 2003 USP has expanded to include local partnerships and public entities in order to collaborate in the process of updating and revising the USP.

2003 ALASKA STATE COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMISSION MEMBERS

MEMBER	PERSPECTIVE*
Nancy Andes, Chairperson	Education
Elaine Dahlgren, Vice-Chair	Older Adults Service Program
Erlinda O. Augustine	Educator/Local Education Agency
Leon M. Bridges	Community Based Organization
Billie Joe Caldwell	Corporate Representative
McLaren Carter	Community Based Organization
Nicholas R. Charles	Economic Development
Tom Gallagher	Business
Dawn Grossman	Public
Wilson Justin	Community Based Organization
Shannon Kempton	Individual between 16-25 years
Denise R. Morris	Alaska Native Representative
Greg O'Claray, Commissioner	Labor & Workforce Dev.
Taber Rehbaum	Community Based Organization
Anna Bell Stevens	Local Labor Organization
Sharon White-Wheeler	Domestic Volunteer Service Act Program

**While this is a major perspective for each member based on their vocation, many members have multiple perspectives. This listing is simply to demonstrate the variety of expertise on the Commission.*

Program Development & Support

GOAL 1: Provide information and technical assistance to organizations interested in engaging national services resources.

- 1.1 The Commission and Corporation State Office will, in a timely manner, advertise (on radio, in local newspapers, and through existing program partners) and post on the commission's web page new program and funding opportunities for organizations interested in national service opportunities. Particular attention will be paid targeting information to potential participants in Learn and Serve, faith-based and secular, Emergency management, Homeland Security, National Civilian Community Corps, and State government cabinet entities.
- 1.2 The Commission will provide forums on grant preparation workshops regionally (for example, in Anchorage, Juneau, and Fairbanks) 60-to-90 days in advance of funding or new program deadlines. These efforts may engage web-based technologies as a means of achievement of this goal.
- 1.3 Commission staff and the Corporation State Office will provide technical assistance or contact persons for assistance on the Corporation's eGrants application process.
- 1.4 The Commission's Program Development and Support Standing Committee will meet semiannually to seek expanded opportunities, conduct outreach, and gather information on program and funding offerings to rural and remote program entities.

GOAL 2: Provide forums that will engage existing and interested partners in the goals and activities of the Commission and the Corporation State Office.

The Commission and the Corporation State Office will conduct three regional planning forums per year that will:

- 2.1 Facilitate training for community organizations that result in high quality, competitive applications for national service resources.
- 2.2 Engage each region (including Juneau, Anchorage and Fairbanks) in the planning and operation of local volunteer efforts of Martin Luther King Day of Service, Make a Difference Day and United Way Day of Caring.
- 2.3 Engage appropriate participation in revising, updating, and producing the Unified State Plan.
- 2.4 Provide training or a conference forum for program partners, service members and interested community organizations at least once a year.
- 2.5 Engage potential and existing program partners in cultivating and expanding partnerships using service as a means of resolving unmet community needs in education, environment, health and human needs, homeland security, and public safety.

GOAL 3: Promote, engage, and expand volunteer opportunities that will meet the President's Call to Service and the goal of 4,000 hours of service per individual in their lifetime.

- 3.1 By 2005, increase the number of Learn and Serve grantees to 16.
- 3.2 Promote, engage, and expand faith-based and secular community-based organizations as service partners and program sponsors through the placement of AmeriCorps* members and other National Service resource venues.
- 3.3 Promote, engage and expand Homeland Security organizations as service partners and program sponsors through the placement of AmeriCorps* members and other National Service resource venues.
- 3.4 Promote, engage, and expand disability-based organizations as service partners and program sponsors through the placement of AmeriCorps* members and other National Service resource venues.

GOAL 4: Assess program training needs and offer training opportunities to meet those needs.

- 4.1 Conduct a needs assessment with program directors and staff prior to the development of the PDAT plan.
- 4.2 Disseminate information about CNCS-sponsored trainings that may address program needs.
- 4.3 Identify financial assistance whenever possible and necessary for program staff to attain needed skills by coordinating with other National Service programs.

Collaboration

GOAL 1: To continue and expand collaborative efforts with other CNCS partners such as the National Senior Service Corps, VISTA, Tribal programs (TCCC and others), Higher Education, National Direct programs, and the NCCC.

- 1.1 Identify the National Direct Programs operating in Alaska each year.
- 1.2 Conduct at least one All Corps Day each year.
- 1.3 Include the partner programs in events such as the annual Alaska Conference on Volunteerism.
- 1.4 Collaborate on National Service Days activities.
- 1.5 Seek creative ways to assist partner programs in meeting their needs.

GOAL 2: To expand connections and work with volunteer organizations such as United Way, Volunteers of America, and the Association of Non-Profits.

- 2.1 Continue the collaborative method of planning for the annual Alaska Conference on Volunteerism.
- 2.2 Schedule a meeting with the Executive Director of each of the above organizations annually to brainstorm opportunities to work together.

GOAL 3: To better inform state and federal government agencies about AmeriCorps and Commission activity within Alaska and seek ways to work together for mutual benefits.

- 3.1 Continue our delivery of the new annual reports to all legislators during our February meeting in Juneau.
- 3.2 Construct a list of other government officials who should receive a copy of the annual report, such as commissioners of departments.
- 3.3 Utilize that list for distribution of reports with a cover letter.
- 3.4 Regularly seek input from all commission members on organizations we should be working with and projects lending themselves to collaboration.

Media and Public Relations

GOAL 1: Develop communication structure and/or seek to promote usage of the existent structures to communicate with partners regarding service and volunteerism activities.

- 1.1 Continue to promote usage of our web site as a method of distributing current information about our programs.
- 1.2 Monitor the number of hits on the web site with a goal of doubling them in a year's time.
- 1.3 Exchange newsletters with partner organizations on a regular basis.

GOAL 2: Do the follow up on the CNCS distribution of the National Public Service Announcements and seek other free media opportunities to highlight and promote service.

- 2.1 Target television and radio stations to get the PSA's played.
- 2.2 Record our own PSA prior to the Alaska Conference on Volunteerism and National Service Days.
- 2.3 Be sure that local newscasters have contact information especially prior to national events that might highlight AmeriCorps.

GOAL 3: Recognize and celebrate the achievement of Volunteers

- 3.1 Support the efforts of the First Lady in recognizing volunteers in Alaska through the inclusion of those awards at the Alaska Conference on Volunteerism
- 3.2 Continue to award the Ellis Award for an individual dedicated to community service.
- 3.3 Support and give recognition to youth involved in community service.
- 3.4 Assist our programs in recognizing and honoring volunteers.

Revision Process

The Alaska State Community Service Commission held a meeting on October 14, 2003, chaired by Elaine Dahlgren, Vice Chair of the Commission. This meeting was open to participation by the public, partnerships and stakeholders, along with the commission members. At this meeting subcommittees were formed to address the components of the USP for updates and revisions.

The Alaska State Community Service Commission met on October 28, 2003 to continue updating the Unified State Plan. Nancy Andes, Chair, led the meeting by brainstorming and collaborating on visionary aspects to assist the commission in developing goals and strategic planning for the USP.

On November 13, 2003, the commission members were mailed electronically the final draft for their review and approval

The final draft of the Unified State Plan was completed November 2003.

Commitments

- Ensure that the Unified State Service Plan is an acceptable document that serves as a guide for the improvement of the overall quality of life in Alaska through community-based service programs.
- Seek necessary resources to sustain the efforts of the Commission and its partners in the implementation of the Unified State Service Plan.
- Conduct the annual review and update of the Unified State Service Plan.
- Develop guidelines and strategy for utilizing PDAT resources/funding and assure that all partners receive guidelines.
- Utilize PDAT resources to leverage other training/technical assistance resources for supporting development of local capacity in nurturing a service culture in the State.
- Ensure that AmeriCorps program staff and stakeholders receive a copy of the Unified State Service Plan in order to fulfill their role in its implementation.

The Corporation State Office will:

- Work with the Commission to ensure that the Unified State Plan is a guiding document, which serves to improve the overall quality of life in Alaska through community-based services.
- Leverage Training and Technical Assistance resources (funds, trainers, facilities, curricular and other materials) with the other partners to support VISTA training and development of local capacity in nurturing a service culture in Alaska.
- Collaborate in the development of a training calendar and plan.
- Ensure that all National Senior Service Corps project staff and AmeriCorps*VISTA project staff and members receive a copy of the Unified State Service Plan and fulfill their role in its implementation.
- Incorporate applicable sections of the United State Service Plan in future National Senior Service Corps and AmeriCorps*VISTA State Plans.

The National Senior Service Corps, AmeriCorps VISTA, TCCC, Tribal programs, NCCC, Higher Education, and National Direct Programs will:

- Utilize the Unified State Service Plan as a guiding document when developing Federal grant goals and objectives.
- Collaborate to resourcefully use PDAT funding for statewide training.
- Work together to represent the contributions and needs of Alaska's population.

The Alaska Department of Community and Economic Development will:

- House the Alaska State Community Service Commission and provide the infrastructure and services for its operation including technology support.
- Support the programs of the Commission to achieve educational goals and Governor's initiatives as opportunities for such coordination arise.
- Support service learning as an effective means of civic education.

ASCSC Sponsored AmeriCorps Programs 2003

Southeast Alaska Guidance Association

- Serve Alaska Youth Corps-AmeriCorps members serve as team leaders for disadvantaged youth. Teams accomplish valuable environmental and construction projects statewide.
- ROPE-AmeriCorps members provide tutoring, mentoring, coaching, volunteer coordination, service-learning, after-school activities and other prevention related training to students from pre-k through twelfth grade.

Rural Alaska Community Action Program

- RurAL CAP ARCTIC- AmeriCorps members help rural Head Start programs develop community partnerships and enhance family literacy. Members also teach youth leadership skills and facilitate youth/elder mentoring.
- RurAL CAP Raven-AmeriCorps members strive to increase the capacity of communities and individuals to improve solid waste, sanitation, and environmental conditions in rural Alaska. Members implement education and environmental projects involving community members and organizations.
- RurAL CAP Birch-AmeriCorps members address critical human health and wellness needs in rural Alaska, directly benefiting children, youth and entire communities. Members educate parents and children on vaccinations, develop and implement alternative activities that do not involve alcohol, tobacco, or other drug use and initiate fitness programs, organize health fairs, and establish systems for promoting itinerant health services and conduct health education.
- Students In Service Education Awards-The University of Alaska Anchorage Department of Social Work and RurAL CAP, place part-time AmeriCorps members with social service agencies in Alaska to address human needs and improve social conditions through community service.

Nine Star – AmAK Literacy Project

- AmeriCorps members serve Alaskan communities by strengthening the capacity of the individual family through youth and child-oriented programs and through family

literacy. Each member works with the community's children, youth, and their families by providing instruction in basic literacy, functional life skills, and computer skills.

- In the Digital Divide Program members work with disadvantaged youth to teach computer and the Internet skills. The members also provide tech support and maintain equipment in the designated school and community center sites in East Anchorage.

Disability Inclusion Project

- To provide an inclusion training after an extensive survey is canvassed. Training will be tailored according to the outcomes of the survey.
- The Alaska Conference on Volunteerism will host a training utilizing out of state presenters from the National Service Inclusion Project.

Planning Grant

- Focus on assistance and planning processing for new projects throughout the State of Alaska.
- Guidelines specifically address a need for a well-designed project plan for new start up projects which require the need and service activities, and strengthening communities by developing community resources, partnerships, capacity building and sustainability.

LEARN AND SERVE

Learn and Serve Formula Program 2003-2004

- Anchorage School District: "*Wendler Middle School Youth Serve Project*": Wendler proposes to continue to build on its successes of its service-learning program. They have an ongoing vision to improve academic performance through expanded service learning opportunities.
- Hydaburg School District: Provides the students vocational experiences in the food service industry while providing the elders of Hydeburg healthy meals on a day when food service is not available to them. Students will have the opportunity to build community service experiences and promote positive school-community relations.
- Sitka Community Schools: Service Learning as a peer helper program, which is designed to serve as the first opportunity for students in distress or experiencing problems. Students will be trained in intervention techniques and will have access to a network to assist students in distress.
- Dzanik'l Heeni Middle School, Floyd Dryden Middle School and Juneau-Douglas High School: Supports after school service clubs, which enables students to participate in safe and supervised environments outside of the school hours. At the high school level, the service learning class provides a chance to contribute something valuable to the community while gaining work experience and career skills. This also enhances civic responsibility through work performed for the benefit of the community

- No Child Left Behind: By linking the Title I, Part H of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 with service learning, students in school wide or targeted assistance programs will be introduced to concepts and experiences that will address drop-out of school prevention and preparedness for the workforce, while instilling strong community values. These programs will be designed with components and strategies to include tutoring, peer counseling, cooperative learning and other approaches to counseling and mentoring.
- In the Fall of 2003 approximately \$53, 000 of funding was made available to public and private schools or teachers for small grants to support service learning.

Learn and Serve Direct Programs: The Corporation for National and Community Service provides direct Learn and Serve funding to Tribal organizations and institutions of higher education.

- The Sitka Tribe of Alaska works with the Sitka School district and the Sitka Native Education program to implement the state standards for Culturally responsive Schools by integrating native values of service into the school curriculum.
- The Mt. Sanford Tribal Consortium uses service learning to implement two Alaskan Villages' goals of creating safe, efficient solid waste management and establishing a student-led informational and supportive system for neighboring Villages' cleanup efforts. K-12 students research, create and lead activities to clear traditionally used waterfront areas and trails.
- The Mt. Sanford Tribal Consortium CHESP Program is a partnership between village councils, UAF, Tanana Chiefs Conference, local health clinics, and Alaska Gateway and Copper River School Districts to provide health education opportunities to students and community members.
- The University of Alaska Anchorage, Center for Community Service and Learning is designed to support faculty engaged in community-based service-learning and research. The initiative's projects include fostering student leadership and civic responsibility through youth advisory councils, implementing student fellowships and faculty mini-grants, and tutoring high school students.

PROMISE FELLOWS

Promise Fellows Programs 2003-2004

- **AMERICA'S PROMISE AND ANCHORAGE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COALITION-**The two Promise Fellows will contribute to these organizations to help meet the promises for children and youth advanced by Anchorage Promise and the Anchorage Youth Development Coalition. The United Way will act as fiscal agent and Nine Star Enterprises will provide insurance for the Fellows.
- These promises are:

- ✓ Ongoing relationships with caring adults, parents, mentors, tutors or coaches.
- ✓ Safe places with structured activities during non-school hours.
- ✓ Healthy starts and futures.
- ✓ Marketable skills through effective education.
- ✓ Opportunities to give back through community service.

Other Corporation for National and Community Service Programs in Alaska

AmeriCorps VISTA

- Volunteers serve in economically challenged communities, fostering self-sufficiency and engaging residents in job skills training, literacy programs, entrepreneurship, health education and community revitalization. There are about 75 VISTA members working throughout Alaska.

National Senior Service Corps

- Foster Grandparents serve children with special needs; Senior Companions help other seniors live independently; and volunteers with the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) meet a wide range of community needs. Currently there are about 600 Alaska seniors participating in these programs.

AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps

- At five campuses across the nation, men and women age 18 to 24 spend ten months in a full-time residential service program. NCCC teams meet community needs in cooperation with non-profit programs, state and local agencies, and other community groups.
- Members serve on environmental projects, education, public safety, disaster relief, and other community needs across the country including here in Alaska.

Tribal Direct Programs: The Corporation for National and Community Service provides direct funding to non-profit Tribal organizations. In Alaska we currently have two Tribal AmeriCorps program funded through the Tanana Chiefs Conference.

- TCC AmeriCorps Program: Ten AmeriCorps members serve Athabaskan villages in Interior Alaska. The members have three areas of focus: an increase in positive youth activities; an increase in cross generational activities; and job readiness training.
- Tribal Civilian Community Corps: This 36 member residential program is modeled after the National Civilian Community Corps. Members will undergo team based cultural and professional training and then travel to villages where they will participate in intensive community service projects.

